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NOTES AND NEWS

CRUPINA VULGARIS (COMPOSITAE: CYNAREAE), NEW TO IDAHO AND NORTH AMER-ICA. Crupina vulgaris Cass., native to the Mediterranean region of Europe, grows in Idaho. The discovery of a well-established colony of this species constitutes the first known record for North America. The plant is a coarse, rank annual that averages 120 cm. in height. Although C. vulgaris resembles some members of Centaurea, it can be readily distinguished by its inconspicuous flower (one to several per head) and its distinctive shuttlecock-like fruit. The fruit, a heavy-bodied achene, is topped by a conspicuous crown of dark brown pappus bristles which graduate in length from the very short outermost to 1.5 times longer than the body of the achene for the innermost. C. vulgaris was found July 26, 1969, in Idaho County, 6 miles ENE of Grangeville on the Sammy VonBargen ranch. The colony was located along State Highway 13 on the Harpster Grade 4.5 road miles from Harpster (NW 1/4 Sec. 7, T. 30N., R. 4E., B.P.M.). The plants were growing in basalt lava river breaks on dry, steep southerly facing rangeland at 2,700 feet elevation. My initial collection (Stickney 1928, ID, MONT, MONTU, WS, WTU, US, and USFS) was identified by Dr. Charles Feddema of the Forest Service Herbarium, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Queries to seven herbaria in the Pacific Northwest and two in Washington, D.C., revealed no record of previous occurrence in Idaho or North America. A second collection (Stickney 2118, IDS, OSC, and NY in addition to those listed above) was made from the same location to secure flowering material. The area of the collection site has had a long history of livestock grazing and of noxious weed establishment and control. The present vegetation is composed principally of introduced ruderal species, among which Potentilla recta, Bromus tectorum, Lactuca serriola, and Dipsacus sylvestris are prominent. Mr. VonBargen first noticed C. vulgaris growing in a small roadside colony at the collection site in 1968. A cursory examination by me in 1970 revealed that a vigorous stand of this species dominated an area of at least 40 acres. C. vulgaris appears to be well able to maintain itself under conditions present in the highly disturbed vegetation of this former bunchgrass rangeland. Its capability to invade other types of vegetation has not been observed and remains as yet unknown.-PETER F. STICKNEY, Intermountain Forest & Range Experiment Station, Ogden, Utah 84401.